

## GLOBAL AIDS PROGRAM

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), of the estimated 40 million adults and children who were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2003, 95% lived in developing countries—and more than 90% were estimated to live in a country served by CDC's Global AIDS Program (GAP). In 2003, an estimated 5 million people were newly infected with HIV, and over 3 million died of AIDS.
- Sub-Saharan Africa populates 70% of the HIV/AIDS rates worldwide; in 2003, 77% of all AIDS deaths were in this region.

### WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC works collaboratively with other U.S. government agencies, including the U.S. Agency for International Development; international health and economic organizations such as the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, and the World Bank; nongovernmental organizations; and host country governments to mitigate the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS. In 2003, CDC's GAP worked in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean and has regional offices/activities in the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, and Central America. GAP has three primary program foci: infrastructure and capacity development—including surveillance, laboratory support, information systems, monitoring and evaluation; primary prevention—including voluntary counseling and testing, blood safety, activities targeted toward youth; and care and treatment—including treatment and care of tuberculosis (TB) and opportunistic infections, preventing mother-to-child transmission, appropriate provision of antiretroviral drugs, and soothing care (see [www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/gap/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/gap/default.htm)).

GAP is part of two ground-breaking U.S. initiatives to address HIV/AIDS in 14 countries hardest hit by the epidemic. The *International Mother and Child HIV Prevention (PMTCT) Initiative*, announced by President Bush in 2002, focuses on preventing the transmission of HIV from mothers to infants and improving healthcare delivery in Africa and the Caribbean. The PMTCT initiative has been incorporated into the broader *Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief*, announced by President Bush in 2003, which aims to prevent 7 million new infections, treat 2 million HIV-infected people, and care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans (see [www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hiv aids/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hiv aids/)).

### Example of Program in Action

Botswana has been one of the countries hardest hit by the HIV pandemic with adult seroprevalence at about 39%. To combat this epidemic, CDC works closely with the Botswana Ministry of Health in all of its HIV/AIDS activities. In the past year, CDC has provided funding and assistance to support 16 voluntary HIV counseling and testing sites. CDC also supports PMTCT activities through the training of health workers, provision of technical assistance to strengthen the counseling, testing, treatment, public education, and addition of 200 counseling and education units to prenatal clinics throughout Botswana. CDC, in collaboration with local partners, launched a radio series, focusing on culturally-specific AIDS-related issues. Finally, GAP assisted in the piloting of an Isoniazid Preventive Therapy program to prevent TB and is working with the government to expand efforts to prevent TB, the leading cause of AIDS-related deaths in Botswana (see [www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/gap/countries/botswana.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/gap/countries/botswana.htm)).

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC will continue to collaborate with multiple partners to provide technical assistance and direct support to country programs worldwide. In addition, CDC will support regional programs to serve a greater number of countries.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit [www.cdc.gov/program](http://www.cdc.gov/program)

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